The Complete Works of

SAPPHO

DELPHI CLASSICS

The Complete Works of
SAPPHO
(630 c.-570 BC c.)

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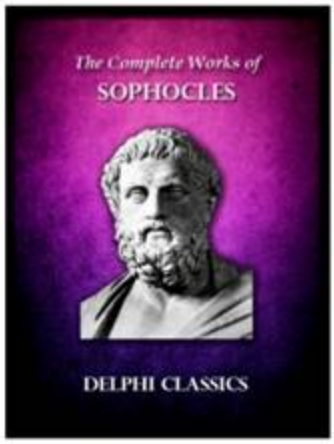

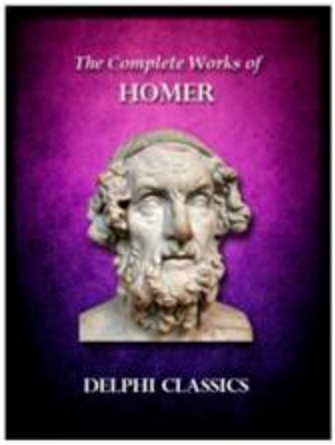

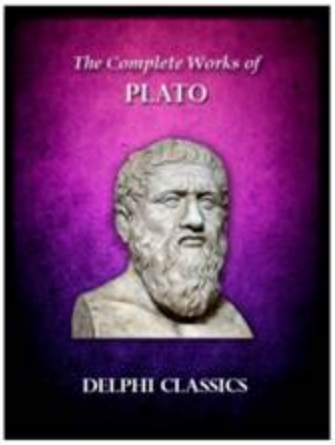

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The Complete Works of

SAPPHO

By Delphi Classics, 2012

Introduction

This *Delphi Classics* (Dual Texts) eBook provides a complete classical reading experience. Each fragment is given in the original Greek and is accompanied with a precise English translation. A brief biography, as well as an Ancient Greek pronunciation guide, have also been provided.

Brief Biography

Sappho was an Ancient Greek poetess, born on the island of Lesbos sometime between 630 and 612 BC, and she died around 570 BC. Sadly, very little is known about her life. She appears to have suffered exile once in Sicily, indicating a political life. She is most famously known for the homosexual love expressed in her work, yet she also composed lines to a heterosexual lover, and the Suda records the name of a husband called Cercyclas of Andros, a wealthy man. However, some believe this to be false information.

The majority of her poetry, which was greatly admired throughout antiquity, has been lost. However, her vast reputation has endured through surviving fragments. Although many are little more than a few words, they all reveal telling signs of her beautiful and consummate artistry. As recently as 2005 a new poem was discovered by archaeologists, the papyrus having been used to mummify a body two thousand years ago and so surviving to our modern age. This last, almost complete, poem has also been included at the end of the eBook, fragment 117.

Lesbos – Sappho's place of birth

Pronouncing Ancient Greek

Here is a brief guide to pronouncing Ancient Greek, allowing you to voice aloud Sappho's original text. You may wish to bookmark this page for future reference.

The Letters

Like the Roman alphabet, Greek has separate capitals and lowercase letters, which are all provided here with their Roman equivalents.

Α, α a
Β, β b
Γ, γ g
Δ, δ d
Ε, ε e
Ζ, ζ z
Η, η ê
Θ, θ th
Ι, ι i
Κ, κ k
Λ, λ l
Μ, μ m
Ν, ν n
Ξ, ξ x
Ο, ο o
Π, π p
Ρ, ρ r
Σ, σ, ς s
Τ, τ t
Υ, υ y
Φ, φ ph
Χ, χ ch
Ψ, ψ ps
Ω, ω ô

Consonants

Most of the consonants are pronounced exactly as in English, except for:

The g is always hard as in ‘golf’, never soft.
z is pronounced zd.
x is pronounced with a ks sound.
r is rolled as in Spanish or Italian.
ps is always pronounced as two sounds
With aspirated consonants ph, th, ch and rh, ignore the h.
The ch should be pronounced the same as a k.

Diphthongs

ai as in aisle
ei as in vein
oi as in oil
au as ow in cow
eu as e of get followed by oo
ou as in soup

The Fragments

‘Sappho and Alcaeus’ by Lawrence Alma-Tadema

1

Ποικιλόθρον᾽ ἀθάνατ᾽ ᾽Αφροδιτα,
παῖ Δίοσ, δολόπλοκε, λίσσομαί σε
μή μ᾽ ἄσαισι μήτ᾽ ὀνίαισι δάμνα,
πότνια, θῦμον.

ἀλλά τυίδ᾽ ἔλθ᾽, αἴποτα κἀτέρωτα
τᾶσ ἔμασ αύδωσ αἴοισα πήλγι
ἔκλυεσ πάτροσ δὲ δόμον λίποισα
χρύσιον ἦλθεσ

ἄρμ᾽ ὑποζεύξαια, κάλοι δέ σ᾽ ἆγον
ὤκεεσ στροῦθοι περὶ γᾶσ μελαίνασ
πύκνα δινεῦντεσ πτέῤ ἀπ᾽ ὠράνω
αἴθεροσ διὰ μέσσω.

αἶψα δ᾽ ἐχίκοντο, σὺ δ᾽, ὦ μάσαιρα
μειδιάσαισ᾽ ἀθάνατῳ προσώπῳ,
ἤρε ὄττι δηῦτε πέπονθα κὤττι
δῆγτε κάλημι

κὤττι μοι μάλιστα θέλω γένεσθαι
μαινόλᾳ θύμῳ, τίνα δηῦτε πείθω
μαῖσ ἄγην ἐσ σὰν φιλότατα τίσ τ, ὦ
Πσάπφ᾽, ἀδίκηει;

καὶ γάρ αἰ φεύγει, ταχέωσ διώξει,
αἰ δὲ δῶρα μὴ δέκετ ἀλλά δώσει,
αἰ δὲ μὴ φίλει ταχέωσ φιλήσει,
κωὐκ ἐθέλοισα.

ἔλθε μοι καὶ νῦν, χαλεπᾶν δὲ λῦσον
ἐκ μερίμναν ὄσσα δέ μοι τέλεσσαι
θῦμοσ ἰμμέρρει τέλεσον, σὺ δ᾽ αὔτα
σύμμαχοσ ἔσσο.

Divine Aphrodite of the glittering throne, daughter of Zeus, weaver of troubles, I pray you, do not defeat my soul with anguish and cares, my Queen. But come here if ever before you did hear my voice and hearken, leaving the golden house of your Father; that time you came with chariot yoked, swift birds drawing you, their swift wings fluttering over the shady earth, from heaven through the mid air. Quickly they came and you blessed me with immortal expression, as smiling you asked what has now befallen me and why do I call and what do I desire most in my heart's madness? What beautiful lover would you now make me love you? Who wrongs you, my Sappho? For even if she flees you, she shall soon follow; and if she refuses your gifts, she shall shortly give them and if she does not love, she shall soon love, however unwilling. Come, I implore you, release me from harsh concerns, and let my heart achieve all that it is desired, so long as you are my ally.

Poem Table of Contents

2

φάινεταί μοι κῆνοσ ἴσοσ τηέοισιν
ἔμμεν ὤνερ ὄστισ ἐναντίοσ τοι
ἰζάνει καὶ πλασίον ἀδυ
φωνεύσασ ὑπακούει

καὶ γαλαίσασ ἰμμερόεν τὸ δὴ ᾽μάν
καρδίαν ἐν στήθεσιν ἐπτόασεν,
ὠσ γὰρ εὔιδον βροχέωσ σε, φώνασ
οὐδὲν ἔτ᾽ ἔικει,

ἀλλὰ κάμ μὲν γλῶσσα ϝέαγε, λέπτον
δ᾽ αὔτικα χρῷ πῦρ ὐπαδεδρόμακεν,
ὀππάτεσσι δ᾽ οὐδὲν ορημ᾽,
ἐπιρρόμβεισι δ᾽ ἄκουαι.

ἀ δέ μ᾽ ί᾽δρωσ κακχέεται, τρόμοσ δὲ
παῖσαν ἄγρει χλωροτέρα δὲ ποίασ
ἔμμι, τεθνάκην δ᾽ ὀλιγω ᾽πιδεύϝην
φαίνομαι [ἄλλα].
πᾶν τόλματον [.....]

That person seems to me the equal of the gods, who sits in your presence and listens to your sweet voice and beautiful laughter; indeed it makes my heart beat swiftly in my breast. When I see you for a short time, I am speechless, my tongue becomes useless and suddenly a deft flame steals under my skin; my eyes see nothing, my ears chime, while sweat pours and my entire body is seized with convulsions. I am paler than grass and in my madness I believe I am almost dead, but I must dare…

Poem Table of Contents

3

Αστερεσ μέν ἀμφι κάλαν σελάνναν
ἄιψ ἀπυκρύπτοισι φάεννον εἶδοσ,
ὅπποτα πλήθοισα μάλιστα λάμπησ
ἀργυρια γᾶν.

The stars around the wide moon lose all their shining beauty, as she illuminates the whole earth with silver.

Poem Table of Contents

4

Ο]ἰ μὲν ἰππήων στρότον οἰ δὲ πέσδων
οἰ δὲ νάων φαῖσ᾽ ἐπὶ γᾶν μέλαιναν
ἔ]μμεναι κάλλιστον ἔγω δὲ κῆν᾽
ὄττω τὶσ ἔπαται.

πά]γχυ δ᾽ εὔμαρεσ σύνετον πόησαι
πά]ντι τ[οῦ]τ᾽. ἀ γὰρ πόλυ περσκόπεισα
κά]λλοσ ἀνθρώπων Ἐλένα [τὸ]ν ἄνδρα
[κρίννεν ἄρ]ιστον,

ὃσ τὸ πὰν] σέβασ τροΐα[σ ὄ]λεσσ[ε,
κωὐδὲ πα]ῖδοσ οὔδε [φίλ]ων το[κ]ήων
μᾶλλον] ἐμνάσθη, ἀ[λλὰ] παράγαγ᾽ αὔταν
πῆλε φίλει]σαν,

Ὤροσ. εὔκ]αμπτον γαρ [ἀεὶ τὸ θῆλυ]
αἴ κέ] τισ κούφωσ τ[ὸ πάρον ν]οήσῃ.
οὐ]δὲ νῦν, Ἀνακτορί[α, τ]ὺ μέμναι
δὴ] παρειοῖσασ,

τᾶ]σ κε βολλοίμαν ἔρατόν τε βᾶμα
κ]αμάρυγμα λάμπρον ἴδην προσώπω
η τὰ λύδων ἄρματα κἀν ὄπλοισι
πεσδομ]άχεντασ

εἰ μεν ἴδ]μεν οὔ δύνατον γένεσθαι
λῶστ᾽] ὀν᾽ ἀνθρώποισ, πεδέχην δ᾽ ἄραστηαι,
[τῶν πέδειχόν ἐστι βρότοισι λῷον]
[ἢ λελάθεσθαι.]

Some say that the most beautiful thing on the dark Earth is a host of cavalry, and some claim a host of foot soldiers, and others say a fleet of ships; but for me it is my lover. And anyone can understand this. When Helen, the most beautiful of all, chose love, destroying the honour of Troy, though little more than a child or parent herself, yet she was led by Love,

giving her heart away, since woman is easily lead astray, when she takes little account of those dear to her. Thus, Anactoria, it appears you do not remember that when she is with you, I would rather hear the gentle sound of her footfall than see all of Lydia’s chariots and armoured footmen. In this world, I know that man cannot have the best; yet to pray for a part is better than to go without...

Poem Table of Contents

5

αμφὶ δ᾽ ὕδωρ
ψῖχρον ὤνεμοσ κελάδει δἰ ὔσδων
μαλίνων, αἰθυσσομένων δὲ φύλλων
κῶμα κατάρρει.

By the cool stream, the breeze murmurs through apple boughs and slumbers whisper from trembling leaves.

Poem Table of Contents

6

ἍΗ σε κύπροσ καὶ Πάφοσ ἢ Πάνορμοσ

If you, Cyprus or Paphos or Panormos…

Poem Table of Contents

7

Σοί δ᾽ ἔγο δεύκασ ἔπι βῶμον ἄιγοσ
...
καπιλείψω τοι ...

But for you I will bring to the altar a young, white goat and add a libation.

Poem Table of Contents

8

... Ἔλθε, Κύπρι,
Χπρυσίασιν ἐν κυλίκεσσιν ἄβραισ
συμμεμιγμένον θαλίαισι νέκταρ
οἰνοχόεισα.

Come, goddess of Cyprus, and with golden cups serve nectar blended with joys...

Poem Table of Contents

9

Αἴθ᾽ ἔγο χρυσοστέφαν᾽ Ἀφρόδιτα,
τόνδε τὸν πάλον λαχόην.

May I be the victor of this prize, O golden-crested Aphrodite.

Poem Table of Contents

10

Αἵ με τιμίαν ἐπόησαν ἔργα
τὰ σφὰ δοῖσαι;

Who offered me gifts, honouring me?

Poem Table of Contents

11

... Τάδε νῦν ἑταίραισ
ταῖσ ἔμαισι τέρπνα κάλωσ ἀείσω.

I will sing this skilfully to please my friends.

Poem Table of Contents

12

... Ὅττινασ γὰρ
εὖ θέω κῆνοί με μάλιστα σίννονται

For you, that I do good, harms me the most.

Poem Table of Contents

13

῞Εγω δὲ κῆν᾽ ὅττω τισ ἔπαται.

But that which you desire…

Poem Table of Contents

14

ταῖσ καλαισ ὔμμιν [τὸ] νόημα τὦμον
οἰ διάμειπτον.

To you, beautiful maidens, my mind does not change.

Poem Table of Contents

....Ἔγων δ᾽ ἐμαύτα
τοῦτο σύνοιδα.

And this I feel too.

Poem Table of Contents

ταισι [δὲ] ψῦχροσ μέν ἔγεντο θῦμοσ
πὰρ δ᾽ ἴεισι τὰ πτέρα ...

Yet the soul within them turned cold and down dropped their wings.

Poem Table of Contents

17

... κατ᾽ ἔμον στάλαγμον,
τὸν δ᾽ ἐπιπλάζοντεσ ἄμοι φέροιεν
καὶ μελεδώναισ.

From my suffering, let gathering winds bear it and all my cares away.

Poem Table of Contents

18

Αρτίωσ μ᾽ ἀ χρυσοπέδιλλοσ Ἀύωσ.

Just then golden-sandalled Dawn called…

Poem Table of Contents

19

... Πὸδασ δέ
ποίκιλοσ μάσλησ ἐκάλυπτε, Λύδιον κάλον ἔργον.

A broidered band of beautiful Lydian work clad her feet.

Poem Table of Contents

20

... Παντοδάπαισ μεμιγμένα χροίαισιν.

Pierced with countless colours.

Poem Table of Contents

21

΄Εμεθεν δ᾽ ἔχεισθα λάθαν.

You forget me…

Poem Table of Contents

22

... ῎Η τιν᾽ ἄλλον
[μᾶλλον] ἀνθρώπων ἔμεθεν φιλησθα.

Or love another more than me…

Poem Table of Contents

23

Οὔ τι μοι ὔμμεσ.

You are nothing to me.

Poem Table of Contents

24

Σκιδναμένασ ἐν στήθεσιν ὄργασ
μαψυλάκαν γλῶσσαν πεφυλάχθαι.

When anger stirs the breast, stop your tongue from barking foolishly.

Poem Table of Contents

25

Αἰ δ᾽ ἦχεσ ἔσλων ἴμερον ἤ κάλων,
καὶ μή τι ϝείπεν γλῶσσ᾽ ἐκύκα κάκον,
αἴδωσ κέ σ᾽ οὐ κίχανεν ὄππατ᾽
ἄλλ᾽ ἔλεγεσ περὶ τῶ δικαίωσ.

If you had wished for good or noble things, rather than use your tongue for wicked speech, shame would not have shown from your eyes, though you spoke with honesty.

Poem Table of Contents

26

Στᾶθι κἄντα φίλοσ,....
καὶ τὰν ἔπ᾽ ὄσσοισ ἀμπέτασον χάριν.

Face me, loved one; and unveil the beauty in your eyes.

Poem Table of Contents

Χρύσεοι δ᾽ ἐρέβινθοι ἐπ᾽ αἰόνων ἐφύοντο.

And gold stretched along the shores.

Poem Table of Contents

28

καὶ ποθήω καὶ μάομαι.

I desire and I seek.

Poem Table of Contents

29

Λάτω καὶ Νιόβα μάλα μὲν φίλαι ἦσαν ἔταιραι.

Lato and Niobe were the dearest of friends.

Poem Table of Contents

30

Μνάσεσθαί τινά φαμι καὶ ὕστερον ἀμμέων.

I believe men will remember us in the future.

Poem Table of Contents

31

ἠράμαν μὲν ἔγω σέθεν, Ἄτθι, πάλαι πότα.

I loved you, Atthis, a long time ago.

Poem Table of Contents

32

Σμίκρα μοὶ παῖσ ἔμμεν ἐφαίνεο κἄχαρισ.

To me you seemed a small and ungainly child.

Poem Table of Contents

33

Ἄλλ᾽ ὄνμὴ μαγαλύννεο δακτυλίω πέρι.

Foolish woman! Be not proud for a ring.

Poem Table of Contents

34

Οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὅττι θέω, δύο μοι τὰ νοήματα.

I do not know what to do: I have two minds.

Poem Table of Contents

35

Πσαύην δ᾽ οὐ δοκίμοιμ᾽ ὀράνω δύσι πάχεσιν.

With both my arms, I do not seek to touch the sky.

Poem Table of Contents

36

ἴΩσ δὲ παῖσ πέδα μάτερα πεπτερύτωμαι.

So like a child calling its mother, I tremble.

Poem Table of Contents

37

῾Ηροσ ἄγγελοσ ἰμερόφωνοσ ἀήδων.

The messenger of spring, the sweet-toned nightingale.

Poem Table of Contents

38

ἔρος δαὖτέ μ᾽ ὀ λυσιμέλες δόνει,
γλυκύπικρον ἀμάχανον ὄρπετον.

Now inescapable Love overcomes and shakes my soul, filling me with bitter-sweetness.

Poem Table of Contents

39

Ἄτθι σοὶ δ ἔμεθέν μεν άπήχθετο
φροντίσδεν, ἔπι δ᾽ Ἀνδρομέδαν πότῃ.

But to you, Athis, thinking of me is hateful, as you flee to Andromeda.

Poem Table of Contents

40

῞Εροσ δαὖτ᾽ ἐτίναξεν ἔμοι φρένασ,
ἄνεμοσ κατ ὄροσ δρύσιν ἐμπέσων.

Now Eros stirs my soul, a mountain wind overwhelming the oak trees.

Poem Table of Contents

41

ἼΟτα πάννυχοσ ἄσφι κατάγρει.

Sleep holds them all night long.

Poem Table of Contents

42

Ἄγε δὴ χέλυ δῖά μοι φωνάεσσα γένοιο.

Come, O divine being, give up your thoughts to me.

Poem Table of Contents

43

Κἀπάλαισ ὑποθύμιδασ
πλέκταισ ἀμπ᾽ ἀπαλᾳ δέρᾳ

And gracefully woven garlands on a tender neck.

Poem Table of Contents

44

Γέλλωσ παιδοφιλωτέρα.

Likes children more than Gello.

Poem Table of Contents

45

Μάλα δὴ κεκορημέναϲ Γόργωϲ.

So tired of Gorgo.

Poem Table of Contents

Ἔγω δ᾽ ἐπὶ μαλθάκαν τύλαν σπολέω μέλεα.

So on a soft cushion I place down my limbs

Poem Table of Contents

47

Κῆ δ᾽ ἀμβροσίασ μὲν κράτηρ ἐκέκρατο,
᾽Ερμᾶσ δ᾽ ἔλεν ὄλπιν θέοισ οἰνοχόησαι.
κῆνοι δ᾽ ἄπα πάντεσ καρχήσια τ᾽ ἦχον
κάλειβον ἀράσαντο δὲ πάμπαν ἔσλα
τῳ γάμβρῳ.

And the bowl of ambrosia was mixed, Hermes taking the ladle to pour for the gods; then all held their cups and offered their libation, wishing good fortune to the bridegroom.

Poem Table of Contents

48

Δέδυκε μεν ἀ σελάννα
καὶ Πληΐαδεσ, μέσαι δὲ
νύκτεσ πάρα δ᾽ ἔρχετ᾽ ὤρα,
ἔγω δὲ μόνα κατεύδω.

The moon and the Pleiades set; it is midnight. Time passes and I lie alone.

Poem Table of Contents

49

Πλήρησ μὲν ἐφαίνετ᾽ ἀ σελάννα
αἰ δ᾽ ὡσ περὶ Βῶμον ἐσταθησαν.

The full moon rose; the women stood, as though around an altar.

Poem Table of Contents

50

Κρήσσαι νύ ποτ᾽ ὦδ᾽ ἐμμελέωσ πόδεσσιν
ὠρχεῦντ᾽ ἀπάλοισ ἀμφ᾽ επόεντα Βῶμον
πόασ τέπεν ἄνθοσ μάλακον μάτεισαι.

Therefore, at times, the Cretan women, soft-footed, dance in time around the resplendent altar, trampling the luscious bloom of grass.

Poem Table of Contents

51

Ἄβρα δηῦτε παχήᾳ σπόλᾳ ἀλλόμαν.

Lightly, I leapt in the caressing garment.

Poem Table of Contents

52

Φαῖσι δὴ ποτα Λήδαν ὐακινθίνων
[ὑπ᾽ ἀνθέων] πεπυκαδμένον
εὕρην ὤιον.

They say Leda once discovered an egg beneath the hyacinths.

Poem Table of Contents

53

Ὀφθάλμοισ δὲ μέλαισ νύκτοσ ἄωροσ.

And murky-eyed Sleep, the child of Night.

Poem Table of Contents

54

Χρυσοφάη θεράπαιναν Ἀφροδίτασ.

Shining like gold the handmaiden of Aphrodite.

Poem Table of Contents

55

Ἔχει μὲν Ανδρομέδα κάλαν ἀμοίβαν.

Andromeda received a beautiful prize.

Poem Table of Contents

56

Πσάπφοι τί τὰν πολύολβον Ἀφρόδιταν;

Sappho, why do you worship Aphrodite, who is the happiest?

Poem Table of Contents

57

Δεῦτέ νυν ἄβραι Χάριτεσ, καλλίκομοί τε Μοῖσαι.

Now, come, tender Graces and graceful-haired Muses.

Poem Table of Contents

Πάρθενον ἀδύφωνον.

The sweet-toned maiden.

Poem Table of Contents

59

Κατθνάσκει Κυθέρη, ἄβροσ Ἄδωνισ, τί κε θεῖμεν,
Καττύπτεσθε κόραι καὶ κατερείκεσθε χίτωνασ.

Tender Adonis now dies, O Cythera, what can we do?
O maidens, beat your breasts and tear your garments.

Poem Table of Contents

Ὅ τὸν Ἄδωνιν.

O, Adonis.

Poem Table of Contents

61

῞Ελθοντ᾽ ἐξ ὀράνω πορφυρίαν [ἔχοντα]
περθέμενον χλάμυν.

Coming from the heavens, dressed in purple robes.

Poem Table of Contents

62

Βροδοπάχεεσ ἄγναι Χάριτεσ, δεῦτε Διοσ κόραι.

Come, rose-armed Graces, Zeus’ virgin daughters.

Poem Table of Contents

...Ὁ δ᾽ Ἄρευσ φαῖσι κεν Ἄφαιστον ἄγνη Βίᾳ.

Yet Ares claimed he would drag Hephaestus with force.

Poem Table of Contents

64

—— Πολλὰ δ᾽ ἀνάριθμα
ποτήρια καλαίφισ.

You drain innumerable drinking cups.

Poem Table of Contents

65

Κατθάνοισα δὲ κείσεαι πότα, κωὐ μναμοσύνα σέθεν
ἔσσετ᾽ οὔτε τότ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ὑ᾽στερον. οὐ γὰρ πεδέχεισ βρόδοων
τῶν ἐκ Πιερίασ ἀλλ᾽ ἀφάνησ κὴν᾽ ᾽Αΐδα δόμοισ
φοιτάσεισ πεδ᾽ ἀμαύρων νέκυων ἐκπεποταμένα.

Forever you shall lie dead nor will there be any remembrance of you then, as you have none of Pieria's; instead you shall wander unknown in the house of Hades, mingling with the shadowy dead.

Poem Table of Contents

66

Οὐδ᾽ ἴαν δοκίμοιμι προσίδοισαν φάοσ ἀλίω
ἔσσεσθαι σοφίαν πάρθενον ἐισ οὐδένα πω χρόνον τοιαύταν.

I believe the woman that has your wisdom will never see the sunlight.

Poem Table of Contents

67

Τίσ δ᾽ ἀγροιῶτίσ τοι θέλγει νόον,
οὐκ ἐπισταμένα τὰ βράκἐ ἔλκην
ἐπί τῶν σφύρων;

What country girl casts a spell on you, not knowing how to draw her dress from her ankles?

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68

Ἥρων ἐξεδίδαξ᾽ εκ Γυάρων τὰν τανυσίδρομον.

I taught Hero of Gyara, the swift runner.

Poem Table of Contents

69

Ἄλλά τισ οὐκ ἔμμι παλιγκότων
ὄργαν, ἀλλ᾽ ἀβάκην τὰν φρέν᾽ ἔχω.

I have not a harmful nature, but a calm temper.

Poem Table of Contents

Αὐτὰρ ὁραῖαι στεφανηπλόκευν.

Then the sweet maidens wove the garlands.

Poem Table of Contents

71

—— Σύ τε κἄμοσ θερόπων ΄Ερος.

You and my servant Eros.

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72

ʾΑλλʾ ἔων φίλοσ ἄμμιν [ἄλλο]
λέχοσ ἄρνυσω νεώτερον
οὐ γὰρ τλάσομʾ ἔγω ξυνοίκην
νεῳ γʾ ἔσσα γεραιτερα.

For if you love me, choose another, younger spouse, for I will not suffer to live with you, as an old woman with a young man.

Poem Table of Contents

73

Εὐμορφοτέρα Μνασιδίκα τᾶσ ἀπάλασ Γυρίννωσ.

More pleasing is Mnasidika than tender Gyrinno.

Poem Table of Contents

74

Ασαροτέρασ οὔγδαμ᾽ ἐπ ὦ π᾽άννα σεθεν τύχοισα.

I never found someone more disdainful than you, O Anna.

Poem Table of Contents

75

Σὺ δὲ στεφάνοισ, α Δίκα περθέσαθ᾽ ἐράταισ φόβαισιν,
ὄρπακασ ἀνήτοιο συν ῥραισ᾽ ἀπάλαισι χέψιν,
ἐγάνθεσιν ἔκ γὰρ πέλεται καὶ χάριτοσ μακαιρᾶν
μᾶλλον προτέρην, ἀστερφανώτοισι δ᾽ ἀπυστερέφονται.

O Dica, set garlands upon your beautiful hair, weaving plant sprigs with your delicate hands; for those who wear attractive blossoms will surely rank first, even among the Goddesses, who frown upon those without garlands.

Poem Table of Contents

76

Ἔγω δὲ φίλημ᾽ ἀβροσύναν, καὶ μοι τὸ λάμπρον
ἔροσ ἀελίω καὶ τὸ κάλον λέλογχεν.

I adore elegance and for me Eros has the sun’s beauty and brilliance.

Poem Table of Contents

77

Κὰμ μέν τε τύλαν κασπολέω.

Down I placed the cushion.

Poem Table of Contents

78

Ὸ πλοῦτοσ ἄνευ σεῦ γ᾽ ἀρέτα ᾽στ᾽ οὐκ ἀσίνησ πάροικοσ,
ἠ δ ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων κρᾶσισ εὐδαιμονίασ ἔχει το ἄκρον.

Wealth without you is nothing, and yet having both is best.

Poem Table of Contents

Αυτα δὲ σύ Καλλιόπα.

And you too, Calliope.

Poem Table of Contents

80

Δαύοισ ἀπάλασ ἐτάρασ ἐν στήθεσιν.

You sleep on the breast of your lover.

Poem Table of Contents

81

Δεῦρο δηῦτε Μοῖσαι χρύσιον λίποισαι.

Here now, you Muses, leave your golden homes…

Poem Table of Contents

82

Ἔστι μοι κάλα πάισ χρυσίοισιν ἀνθέμοισιν
ἐμφέρην ἔχοισα μόρφαν, Κλῆισ ἀγαπάτα,
ἀντι τᾶσ ἔγω οὐδὲ Λυδίαν παῖσαν οὐδ᾽ ἔρανναν.

I have a beautiful daughter formed like golden flowers, blessed Cleis, whom I treasure more than the whole of Lydia or luscious Lesbos.

Poem Table of Contents

83

Πόλλα μοι τὰν
Πωλυανάκτιδα παῖδα χᾶιρην.

All joy comes to me, daughter of Polyanax.

Poem Table of Contents

84

Ζὰ δ᾽ ἐλεξάμαν ὄναρ Κυπρογενήᾳ.

I spoke to the Cyprian goddess in a dream.

Poem Table of Contents

85

Τί με Πανδίονισ ὦ ῎ραννα χελίδων;

Why pretty swallow, Pandion's child, do you pester me?

Poem Table of Contents

Ἀμφὶ δ᾽ ἄβροισ λασίοισ εὖ ϝε πύκασσεν.

She wrapped herself in gossamer clothes.

Poem Table of Contents

87

Γλύκεια μᾶτερ, οὔ τοι δύναμαι κρέκην τὸν ἴστον,
πόθῳ δάμεισα παῖδοσ βραδίναν δἰ Ἀφρόδιταν.

My sweet mother, defeated by gentle Aphrodite's spell, longing for a youth, I no longer weave the cloth.

Poem Table of Contents

88

ἴΙψοι δὴ τὸ μέλαθρον,
Υ᾽μήναον
ἀέρρετε τέκτονεσ ἄνδρεσ,
Υ᾽μήναον
γάμβροσ ἔρχεται ἶσοσ Ἄ᾽ρευϊ,
[Υ᾽μήναον]
ανδροσ μεγάλο πόλυ μείζων
[Υ᾽μήναον]

Raise high the roof beams, workers! Hymenaeus! Like Ares, here comes the bridgroom! Hymenaeus! Taller than the tallest men! Hymenaeus!

Poem Table of Contents

89

Πέρροχοσ ὡσ ὅτ᾽ ἄοιδοσ ὁ Λέσβοισ ἀλλοδάποισιν.

He towers like the lyrist of Lesbos above all men of other lands.

Poem Table of Contents

90

Οἷον τὸ γλυκύμαλον ἐρεύθεται ἄκρῳ ἐπ᾽ ὔσδῳ
ἄκρον ἐπ᾽ ἀκροτάτῳ λελάθοντο δὲ μαλοδρόπνεσ,
οὐ μὰν ἐκλελάθοντ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ ἐδύναντ᾽ ἐπίκεσθαι.

The sweet apple reddens on the branch, the very top branch, which the gatherers missed; no, they did not miss, but could not reach.

Poem Table of Contents

91

Οἵαν τὰν ὐάκινθον ἐν οὔρεσι ποίμενεσ ἄνδρεσ.
πόσσι καταστείβοισι, χαμαι δ᾽ ἐπιπορφύρει ἄνθοσ.

On the hills the shepherds trample the flower underfoot and it lies on the group, darkening in decay.

Poem Table of Contents

92

Fέσπερε, πάντα φέρων, ὅσα φαίνολισ ἐσκέδασ᾽ αγωσ,
φέρεισ οἴν, φέρεισ αἶγα, φέρεισ ἄπυ ματέρι παῖδα.

Evening, you bring all that light morning scattered, you herald the sheep, the goat and restore the child to its mother.

Poem Table of Contents

Ἀϊπάρθενοσ ἔσσομαι.

I shall be a maid forever.

Poem Table of Contents

94

Δώσομεν, ἦσι πάτερ.

Let us give, says the father.

Poem Table of Contents

95

Θυρώρῳ πόδεσ ἑπτορόγυιοι
τὰ δὲ σάμβαλα πεμπεβόνα,
πίσυγγοι δὲ δέκ᾽ ἐξεπόνασαν.

To the gate-keeper, seven feet long and sandals of five bull hides, with work for ten cobblers.

Poem Table of Contents

96

Ὄλβιε γάμβρε, σοὶ μὲν δὴ γάμοσ, ὡσ ἄραο
ἐκτετέλεστ᾽ ἔχεισ δὲ πάρθενον, ἄν ἄραο.

Happy bridegroom, now your wedding has come as you wished, and you have your desired maiden.

Poem Table of Contents

97

Μελλίχιοσ δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἰμμέρτῳ κέχυται προσώποῳ.

As a sweet expression steals across her beautiful face.

Poem Table of Contents

98

Ὸ μὲν γὰρ κάλοσ, ὄσσον ἴδην, πέλεται [ἄγαθοσ]
ὸ δὲ κἄγαθοσ αὖτικα καὶ κάλοσ ἔσσεται.

He who is beautiful to look on is good, and he who is good will soon be beautiful.

Poem Table of Contents

99

῎Ηῤ ἔτι παρθενίασ επιβάλλομαι;

Do I still yearn for maidenhood…

Poem Table of Contents

100

Χαίροισα ηύμφα, χαιρέτω δ᾽ ὀ γάμβροσ.

The bride enters rejoicing, let the bridegroom rejoice too.

Poem Table of Contents

101

Τίῳ, σ᾽, ὦ φίλε γάμβρε, κάλωσ ἔικάσω;
ὄρπακι βραδίνῳ σε κάλιστ᾽ ἔικάσδω.

To what may I compare you, dear bridegroom?
Most like a tender shoot.

Poem Table of Contents

102

...Χαῖρε, νύμφα,
Χαῖρε, τίμιε γαμβε, πόλλα.

Hail bride, and hail all, noble bridegroom!

Poem Table of Contents

103

Οὐ γὰρ ἦν ἀτέρα παῖσ, ὦ γάμβρε, τοαύτα.

O bridegroom, there is no other maiden like her.

Poem Table of Contents

104

Παρθενία, παρθενία, ποῖ με λίποισ᾽ ἀποίχῃ;
Οὐκέτι ἥξω πρὸσ σέ, οὐκέτι ἥξω.

Maidenhood, maidenhood, why have you left me?
Never again shall I return to you.

Poem Table of Contents

105

Φαίνεταί ϝοι κῆνοσ...

To himself he appears...

Poem Table of Contents

106

Ὠΐω πόλυ λευκότερον.

Something much whiter than an egg.

Poem Table of Contents

107

Μήτ᾽ ἔμοι μέλι μήτε μέλισσα.

Neither honey nor bee...

Poem Table of Contents

108

Μὴ κίνη χέραδασ.

Do not disturb the pebbles.

Poem Table of Contents

109

ἌΟπτιασ ἄμμε.

You burn us.

Poem Table of Contents

110

Ἡμιτύβιον σταλάσσον.

A dripping cloth.

Poem Table of Contents

111

Τὸν ϝὸν παιδα καλει.

She called him her son.

Poem Table of Contents

112

Παιδεσ, ἄφωνοσ ἐοῖσα τόδ᾽ ἐννέπω, αἴ τισ ἔρνται,
Φωνὰν ἀκαμάταν κατθέμενα πρὸ ποδῶν,
Ἀιθοπίᾳ με κόρᾳ Λατοῦσ ἀνέθηκεν Ἀρίστα
Ἐρμοκλειδαία τῶ Σαοναϊάδα,
σὰ πρόπολοσ, δέσποινα γυναικῶν, ᾇ σὺ χαρεῖσα
πρόφρων ἀμετέρον εἰκκλέϊσον γενεάν.

Maidens, though I am dumb, yet I speak thus. If any find and put at your feet someone with a constant voice. To Aethopia, daughter of Leto, I was consecrated by Arista, daughter of Hermokleides Saonaiades, your servant, queen of women. May you bless and glorify our house.

Poem Table of Contents

113

Τιμάδοσ ἄδε κόνισ, τὰν δὴ ρπὸ γάμοιο θανοῦσαν
δέξατο φερσεφόνασ κύανεοσ θάλαμοσ,
ασ καὶ ἐποφθιμένασ πᾶσαι νεοθᾶγι σιδάρῳ
ἄλικεσ ιμμερτὰν κρᾶτοσ ἔθεντο κόμαν.

Here is the dust of Timas, who was received in Persephone's dark chamber, ceased before her wedding; when she died all of her handmaidens sheared with sharpened metal their beautiful hair.

Poem Table of Contents

ἄνθὲ ἀμέργουσαν παῖδ᾽ ἄγαν ἀπαλάν.

The gentlest maiden gathering flowers.

Poem Table of Contents

115

Πόλυ πάκιδοσ ᾽αδυμελεστέρα, χρύσω χρυσοτέρα.

The lyre, far sweeter in tone, sweeter than gold and more golden.

Poem Table of Contents

116

Ρ’οδοπτήχεισ και ἐλικώπιδεσ καὶ καλλιπάρῃοι
καὶ μειλιχοφωνοι.
With rose-touched cheeks and darting eyes and voices as sweet as honey.

117

Ὑμμες πεδὰ Μοίσαν ἰ]οϙ[ό]λ̣πων
κάλα δῶρα, παῖδες,
σπουδάσδετε καὶ τὰ]ν̣ φιλἀοιδον
λιγύραν χελύνναν·

ἔμοι δ᾽ἄπαλον πρίν] π̣οτ᾽ [ἔ]οντα
χρόα γῆρας ἤδη
ἐπέλλαβε, λεῦκαι δ᾽ ἐγ]ένοντο
τρίχες ἐκ μελαίναν·

βάρυς δέ μ᾽ ὀ [θ]ῦμο̣ς πεπόηται, γόνα
δ᾽ [ο]ὐ φέροισι,
τὰ δή ποτα λαίψηρ᾽ ἔον ὄρχησθ᾽ ἴσα
νεβρίοισι.

τὰ <μὲν> στεναχίσδω θαμέως· ἀλλὰ τί
κεν ποείην;
ἀγήραον ἄνθρωπον ἔοντ᾽ οὐ δύνατον
γένεσθαι

καὶ γὰρ π̣[ο]τ̣α̣ Τίθωνον ἔφαντο
βροδόπαχυν Αὔων
ἔρωι φ̣. . . ᾳ̣θ̣ε̣ισαν βάμεν᾽ εἰς
ἔσχατα γᾶς φέροισα[ν,

ἔοντα̣ [κ]ἀλ̣ο̣ν καὶ νέον, ἀλλ᾽
αὖτον ὔμως ἔμαρψε
χρόνωι πό̣λ̣ι̣ο̣ν̣ γῆρας, ἔχ[ο]
ν̣τ᾽ ἀθανάταν ἄκοιτιν.

Be joyous, girls, for the fragrant-flowered Muses' lovely gifts, and for the clear harmonious lyre. But my once tender body is now seized by old age; my hair is white instead of dark; my heart has grown heavy; my knees will not hold me, though once they were as nimble for dancing as fawns.

How I often regret - but why complain? Never to grow old, when you are mortal, is impossible. A tale tells how Tithonus was once smitten by rose-armed Dawn, whom he carried off to the world's end. He was handsome and young then, but eventually grey age overcame him, the husband of an immortal wife.

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